

to an axis of the stationary bearing element to produce a predetermined radial force on the rotor.

Remarks

Applicants have studied the Office Action of June 16, 1998, as well as the prior art cited therein. The indication that claims 15-20 are allowed in light of the prior art, and the further indication of allowable subject matter in claims 4-7 and 12-14, is appreciated.

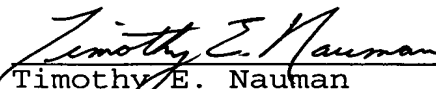
In response, claims 1 and 8 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner to emphasize that the bearings are fluid bearings. Accordingly, claims 1 and 8, as well as all claims dependent therefrom, are deemed to patentable over the prior art.

Moreover, new claims 21 and 22 are simply dependent claims 4 and 6 rewritten in independent form. Since both of those claims were indicated as being objected to, they, too, are believed to patentably define over the prior art.

All formal and informal matters having been addressed, this application is in condition for allowance. Early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

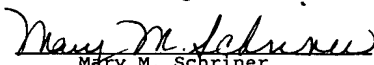
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this AMENDMENT is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on September 16, 1998.

By: 
Mary M. Schriener

Date: Sept 16, 1998

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